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EXCISE

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HONG KONG/PRC/UK: A DIFFICULT SELL

New Hong Kong Governor Chris Patten began his first visit to Beijing yesterday to lobby the PRC to accept political changes in Hong Kong, including broadening the electoral base for 1995 elections, according to press reports. PRC-controlled media in Hong Kong have launched an increasingly strident attack on Patten himself - one article called him "a political quack" - as well as on his program. Beijing has shown more restraint but complains that Patten's policies present obstacles to a smooth transition to Chinese rule and are "obviously inconsistent" with the 1984 UK-PRC joint declaration on Hong Kong.

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